



ABOVE: Army Capt. Edward Gonzales receives an Air Force Commendation Medal from Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander. The Air Force Commendation Medal was also awarded to Army 2nd Lt. Bradley K. Bock, Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Thomas, Army Staff Sgt. James R. Busse, Army 1st Lt. Daniel L. Hughes, Army 2nd Lt. Kevin W. Riley, Army Staff Sgt. Peter L. Alley, and Army Staff Sgt. Alexander Magallanez. Capt. Michael Berry and 1st Sgt. Calvin John were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.



ABOVE: Army 2nd Lt. Bradley Bock, First Platoon Leader for C Battery, 3/200 Air Defense Artillery Forward, and Maj. Martin Rothrock, 377th Security Forces Squadron commander, add cola to the ceremonial grog.



ABOVE: Army Sergeant Evan Larsen, 44th Army Band, plays “Amazing Grace” as part of the POW/MIA ceremony. The table behind him is set for the prisoners of war and soldiers that are missing in action so they may be remembered and honored.

Joint operations come to an end

New Mexico National Guard members leave Kirtland gates

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The soldiers of C Battery, 3/200 Air Defense Artillery Forward ended their two years of service at the gates here in style, with a pull-out-all-the-stops dining out on Nov. 5.

Along with Airmen from the 377th Security Forces Squadron, the soldiers celebrated with Col. Hank Andrews, commander of the 377th Air Base Wing commander, and Brig. Gen. Kenny C. Montoya, New Mexico National Guard adjutant general, as the two guests of honor at the Mountain View Club.

Many of the National Guard soldiers were excited about completing the requirements of their 730-day orders, but fondly remember their time serving Team Kirtland.

“I wish I was staying,” said 2nd Lt. Bradley Bock, a C Battery platoon leader, who will return to his job as a dispatcher for the Bernalillo County Sheriff’s Department. “I loved my job, the base and think we did a good job.”

Base security forces leadership agreed with Lt. Bock’s sentiments. “They were fantastic, and we were very lucky to have C Battery working with us,” said Maj. Martin Rothrock, commander of the 377 Security Forces Squadron. “We learned a lot from them.”

“We gave them some of the toughest jobs and they rose to the occasion,” said Major Rothrock. “The soldiers had great positive attitudes.”

For their work supporting the installation, many of the soldiers were honored with medals and awards, including two awarded with the Meritorious Service Medal, eight with the Air Force Com-

mendation Medal, 33 with the Air Force Achievement Medal and 34 with certificates of achievement.

Both Army and Air Force leadership lauded the flexibility and above-average work of C Battery. “I think they performed beyond the standard,” said General Montoya. “They weren’t trained for this mission, but did what they were called to do.”

The celebration included the traditional Grog Bowl ceremony — which resulted in a beverage composed of some interesting Army touches, including dirt and combat boots — a touching military history/ prisoners of war/missing in action ceremony, and numerous toasts—including toasts for both services.

“Colonel Andrews and his staff took the soldiers in and made them feel like they were part of the team, and I’m proud to be here to celebrate this tonight,” said General Montoya. “No matter the uniform, they’re all great Americans.”



ABOVE: from left - Capt. Michael Berry, Mrs. Zanetti, Col. Greg Zanetti, Brigadier General Kerry C. Montoya, Mrs. Deb Andrews, Col. Hank Andrews, Mrs. Beth Rothrock and Maj. Martin Rothrock lift their cups of grog in a toast “To The Armed Forces.”

BELOW: Guests at the dining out ceremony fill their cups with grog. Grog is the traditional beverage for toasts at these events. Every ingredient in the concoction is symbolic. This batch included coffee grounds to represent the 24 hour security provided by the 377th Security Forces Squadron and a can of oil to represent the life blood of the vehicles that take them to the fight.

